Changes in Railways Security System

699. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what changes have been made in railways security system to plug loopholes which facilitated bomb blasts on 11th July 2006 in Mumbai suburban trains, followed by similar blasts on February 19th, 2007 in Samjhauta Express;

(b) how many attacks on trains by Naxalite groups have been made in the year 2006;and

(c) how this vulnerability of the present railway security system is being adequately taken care of and what long-term measures are proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) In the aftermath of bomb blasts in Mumbai suburban trains and explosion in Samjhauta Express, following preventive measure are being taken to plug the loopholes in railways security system:-

- Sniffer dogs are being utilized to check explosive material in trains/ railway stations/railway premises.
- Railway Protection force and Government Railway Police staff are being deployed for escorting of Mail/Express/Shatabdi/Rajdhani Express trains.
- Luggage/baggage checking of passengers at entry gate, is being done by Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force/Commercial staff at railway stations.
- Intelligence staff are being geared up and instructed to maintain close liaison with Intelligence Bureau, special Branch and other intelligence agencies.
- Regular meetings with Government Railway Police/Civil Police/ Intelligence Agencies are being held.
- Joint Sammelans with Government Railway Police, Coolies, Vendors, Taxi drivers, Railway employees etc. are being organized.
- The empty rake is locked at Platform and is escorted by Railway Protection Force from Platform to sick/washing line.
- Basic security arrangements are also strengthened by minimizing the entry points and repairing of boundary walls of station limit, yard, etc.
- Railway Protection/Force escorting staff are being provided in proper strength.
- Frisking of all passengers and manual checking of their luggage has been introduced.
- Sniffer dogs are being deployed for checking of empty rakes of the above trains at platforms from where the trains start.
- Close Circuit Televisions are being installed at Important Railway Stations.

- Modern security gadgets like Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors, X-Rays baggage scanners etc. are being provided at important stations.

(b) (i) Attack by a group of armed Naxalites over South East Central Railway between Darakasa-Batalao Railway Stations of Nagpur Division in Maharashtra State on 06.12.2006.

(ii) Maoist attack in trains on 15.10.2006 by about 50/60 armed Naxilites at Topadih Railway Station of Chakardharpur Division. They set on fire three loco engines.

(iii) On 10.10.2006, 25/30 armed Naxalites attacked Railway Protection Force Cash escorting party in train No. 346-Down Tata-Kadakpur passenger and snatched two 303 Rifles and 30 rounds causing on duty two Railway Protection Force staff serious bleeding injury.

(c) The vulnerability of the present railway security system is being taken care of by the following ways:-

- ❖ By procuring Modern security gadgets.
- ❖ By close and effective supervision of the staff.
- ❖ By surprise done by supervisory staff in day time as well as in night.
- ❖ By enhancing Manpower.
- ❖ By strengthening the Dog Squad.

In addition, to the above following long-term measures are also under implementation:-

Installation of X-Ray Screening machines and Close Circuit Televisions at important Railway Stations. Based on need and expert opinion, further measures will be taken in future.

Public-private participation routes in dense crowded cities

700. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has strategically decided to adopt public-private participation route for build, maintain and operate shorter version of train in various dense-crowded cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has given permission to western railways for adopting PPP route in Mumbai city; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and policy made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.